

Redescription of *Plagiophorus paradoxus* Motschulsky with comments on the pselaphine tribe Cyathigerini (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae)

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Redescription of *Plagiophorus paradoxus* Motschulsky with comments on the pselaphine tribe Cyathigerini (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae). - *Plagiophorus paradoxus* is redescribed based on the lectotype, which is designated here. *Plagiophorus* is transferred from the Batrisina to the Cyathigerini. The genera *Cyathiger* King, *Cyathigerodes* Jeannel, *Denicyathiger* Jeannel, *Manuleiger* Jeannel and *Paracyathiger* Jeannel are considered junior subjective synonyms of *Plagiophorus*, necessitating 83 new species combinations. *Plagiophorus raffrayi* (Bryant, 1915) and *P. raffrayi* (Leleup, 1974) become secondary homonyms, and a replacement name, *Plagiophorus cabindai*, is provided for the latter. *Plagiophorus inermis* Motschulsky is transferred to *Stipesa*.

Key-words: Coleoptera - Staphylinidae - Pselaphinae - Cyathigerini - *Plagiophorus* - taxonomy.

INTRODUCTION

Cyathigerine beetles live in leaf litter of humid forests in the Old World tropics. Currently some eighty species are described with about half of these being Oriental (including China and Japan), a third being Afrotropical, and the remainder being Australian (including New Guinea and the Solomon Islands). In Africa cyathigerines are relatively scarce and the described species (Leleup, 1974) probably constitute a reasonable representation of the existing fauna. A similar situation is found also in Australia (Chandler, 2001). However, in South and Southeast Asia (including New Guinea), these beetles are abundant, and the tribe is species-rich. They are encountered in a wide range of habitats, including strongly degraded sites. Based on collections made in Sri Lanka, India, Nepal, Thailand, West Malaysia, Borneo, Sumatra, Java and the Philippines (unpublished MHNG data), the Oriental fauna may contain ten times as many species as are currently known.

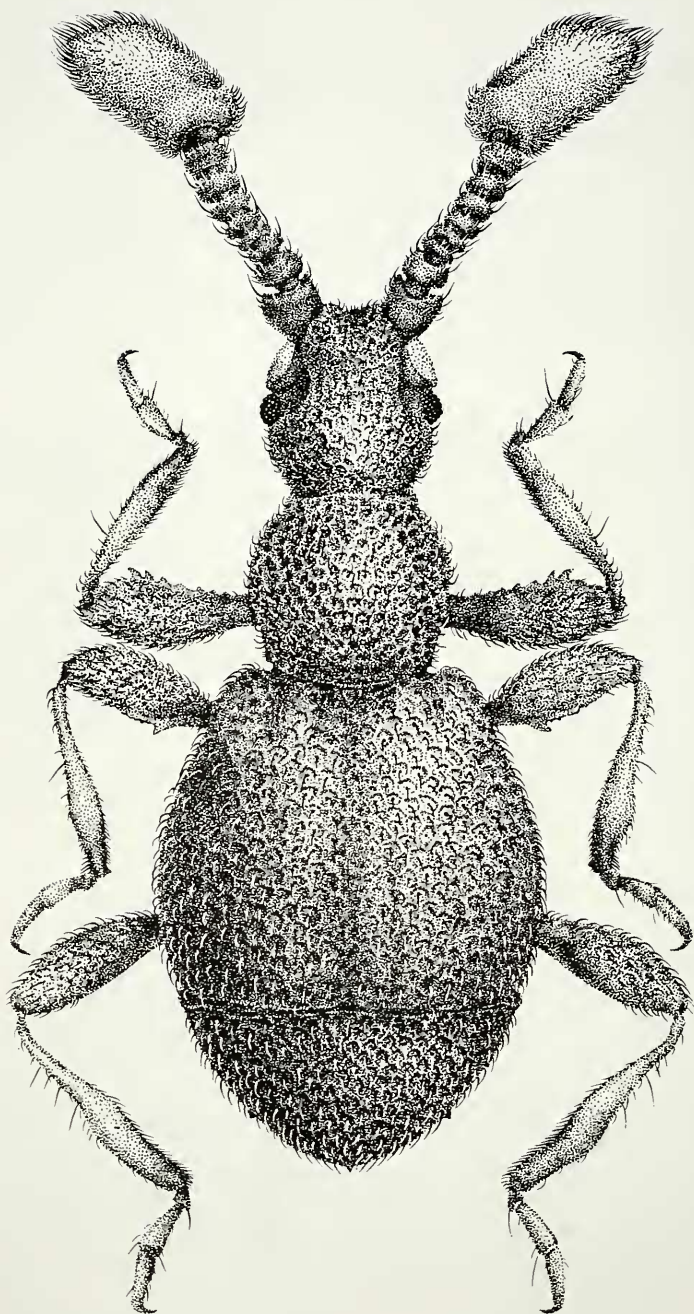


FIG. 1

Plagiophorus sp., from Sichuan (drawing by Nicolette Lavoyer).

The external morphology of cyathigerines is highly characteristic (fig. 1). Despite this relative uniformity, there are a wide array of details that may be used to define species. These details include general punctuation and setosity, head, thorax and abdominal shape, number and shape of antennal segments, shape of maxillary palpi, size of eyes, etc. In addition to these there are often secondary sexual characters, particularly for males, on various parts of the body. The male aedeagus provides another set of characters for species recognition.

The tribe Cyathigerini was erected by Raffray (1890a) for the single genus *Cyathiger* King. Raffray suggested that the tribe is related to Goniacerini "at the very end of Brachyscelidae." This assignment was based on the trochanteral structure and the oblique insertion of the femora. Jeannel (1951) transferred the tribe to the macroscelids by alleging a close relationship to the Hybocephalini. This transfer was mostly based on superficial resemblance rather than genuine evidence. This fact was pointed out by Leleup (1974). Newton & Chandler (1989) and Nomura & Lee (1993) followed Jeannel (1951), but Chandler (2001) used Raffray's (1890a) classification.

Jeannel (1951, 1961) erected the genera *Cyathigerodes*, *Paracyathiger*, *Denicyathiger* and *Manuleiger* mostly on the basis of differences in the number of antennal segments and the shape of the antennal club. Burckhardt (1985) pointed out that the boundaries of Jeannel's genera had disappeared as additional species were added. He treated the group as the single genus *Cyathiger*, though without formally synonymising Jeannel's genera.

Motschulsky (1851) erected the genus *Plagiophorus* for two species with a compact body form and a densely punctured body surface. One of the species was from "Indes orientales", for the other no provenance was noted. He placed the genus between *Tychus* and *Bythinus*. *P. paradoxus*, the second species, is described as being even more compact than *P. inermis*, and is said to bear a hammer-shaped antenna with an asymmetrically enlarged ultimate segment suggesting a resemblance, at least superficially, to members of the Cyathigerini. *Plagiophorus* was subsequently only mentioned in catalogues, e. g. as doubtful synonym of *Sathytes* Westwood, 1870, by Raffray (1904, 1908, 1911). Newton & Chandler (1989) designated *P. paradoxus* as type species and included *Plagiophorus* in the subtribe Batrisina.

In the present paper *Plagiophorus paradoxus* is redescribed based on the examination of type material, and the identity of *Plagiophorus* is discussed.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The examined types of *Plagiophorus paradoxus* and *P. inermis* are deposited in the Zoological Museum of the University, Moscow (ZMUM). Identified and, to a larger extent, unidentified material in the collection of the Muséum d'histoire naturelle, Geneva (MHNG) forms the basis for assessing characters and their variation within the tribe Cyathigerini.

TAXONOMIC TREATMENT

***Plagiophorus* Motschulsky, 1851: 496.**

Type species *Plagiophorus paradoxus* Motschulsky, by subsequent designation (Newton & Chandler, 1989: 39).

Cyathiger King, 1865: 174. Type species *Cyathiger punctatus* King, by monotypy. **Syn. n.**

Cyathigerodes Jeannel, 1951: 110. Type species *Cyathigerodes machadoi* Jeannel, by original designation. **Syn. n.**

Denicyathiger Jeannel, 1951: 109. Type species *Cyathiger bironis* Raffray, by original designation. **Syn. n.**

Paracyathiger Jeannel, 1951: 109. Type species *Cyathiger heteroceris* Raffray, by original designation. **Syn. n.**

Manuleiger Jeannel, 1961: 449. Type species *Manuleiger remyi* Jeannel, by original designation. **Syn. n.**

***Plagiophorus paradoxus* Motschulsky**

Figs 2-5

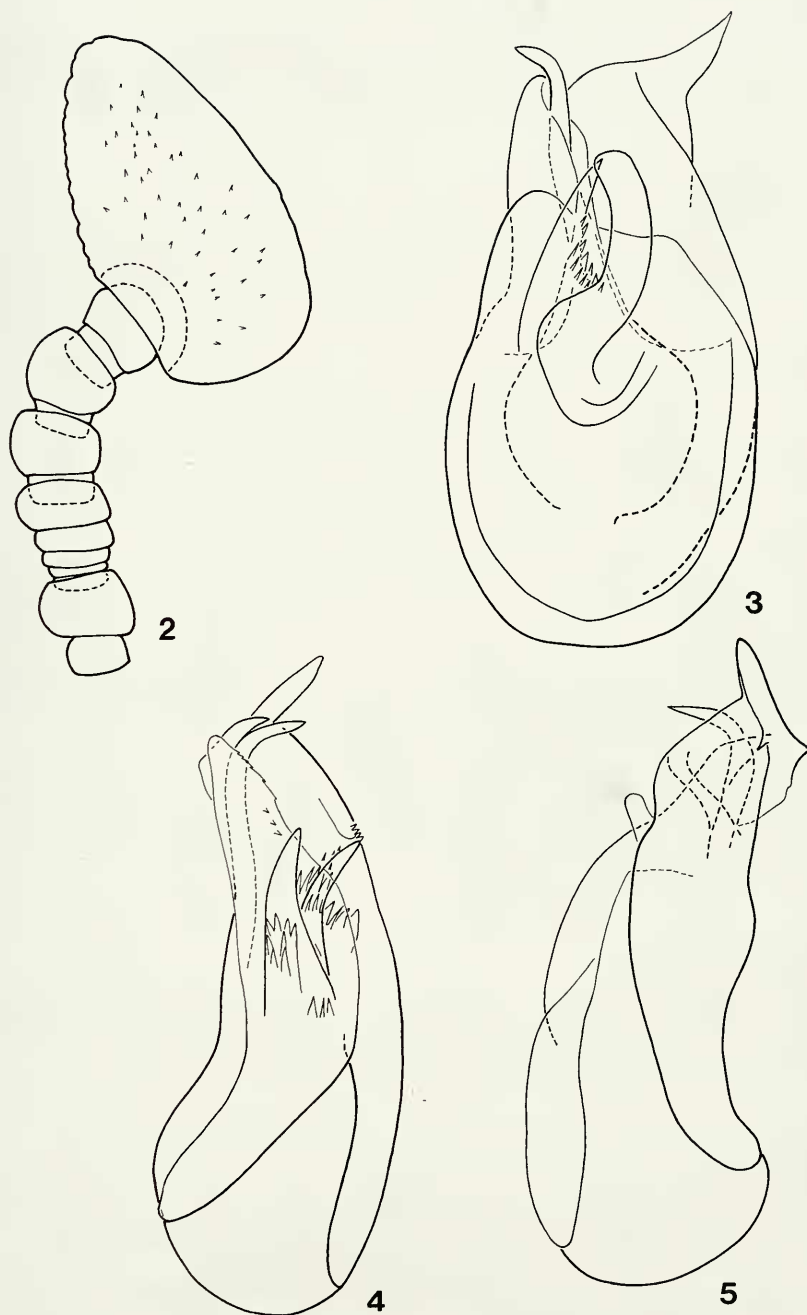
Plagiophorus paradoxus Motschulsky, 1851: 496. Lectotype ♂: “Indes orientales” (ZMUM), here designated (examined).

Description. Of *Cyathigerini* form as defined by Chandler (2001). Length 1.29 mm. Coarsely punctured, covered in short appressed setae.

Head including eyes wider than long (0.26/0.31 mm), wider than pronotum. Frontal lobe short and wide. Eyes very large. Ventral surface of head with small flat median denticle, indented on either side. Antenna (fig. 2) with 10 segments 7 of which are articulated; scape broad; pedicel slightly wider than long; segments 3 to 6 fused, segments still completely separated from each other but not articulate, length and width of segments increasing from 3 to 6; segments 7 to 9 subequal, about the same size as pedicel; segment 10 forming large asymmetrical club which is broadly irregularly rounded ventrally and strongly expanded dorsally, inner surface flattened, not modified. Apical segment of maxillary palpi relatively short, pear-shaped. Pronotum oval in dorsal view, longer than wide (0.39/0.30 mm). Wings developed. Abdominal sternite with deep basal cavity and shallow median depression which is delimited by a rounded bulge laterally and posteriorly; at base on either side with small denticle. Protibiae with subapical tooth on inner surface; legs otherwise simple.

Aedeagus (figs 3-5) 0.30 mm long, strongly asymmetrical. Dorsal window large, distinctly delimited. Parameres weakly sclerotised apically.

Comments. According to Motschulsky's (1851) original description, material of *Plagiophorus paradoxus* is in the “Museum of Prague, and the name was given by Mr Dornietzer” who was supposed to describe the species. No material could be traced in Prague (J. Jelínek, pers. comm.), and the species was never described by Dornietzer. There is only a single specimen in the ZMUM (C. Besuchet, pers. comm.) which is designated here as lectotype. This is to ensure stability in case the Dornietzer material turns up containing specimens which are not conspecific with the lectotype.



FIGS 2-5

Plagiophorus paradoxus Motschulsky, lectotype; 2: antenna (scape missing); 3-5: aedeagus in dorsal and lateral views.

Stipesa inermis (Motschulsky), comb. n.

Plagiophorus inermis Motschulsky, 1851: 496. Syntype: without locality (ZMUM), (examined).

Comments. The examination of the single syntype showed *P. inermis* to be a member of *Stipesa* Sharp, to which it is transferred here.

DISCUSSION

Examination of *P. paradoxus*, the type species of *Plagiophorus*, revealed that this taxon belongs to the Cyathigerini. In transferring *Plagiophorus* from its present position within the Batrisina to the Cyathigerini, the question arises concerning how it may be separated from the other five genera in the tribe (Newton & Chandler, 1989). Based on differences in the number of antennal segments, the shape of the frontal lobe of the head, the aedeagal structure, and possibly geographical considerations, Jeannel (1951) split *Cyathiger* King, 1865, into 4 genera: *Cyathiger*, *Cyathigerodes*, *Paracyathiger* and *Denicyathiger*. Later Jeannel (1961) added *Manuleiger* from Sri Lanka. He did not discuss the phylogenetic significance of the characters which he used for his generic concepts, and his conclusions were derived from very limited material.

Burckhardt (1985) pointed out the artificial nature of Jeannel's genera. A large number of undescribed species from tropical Asia (MHNG data) blend Jeannel's characters used to characterize the five genera, and cannot be used to readily place species into Jeannel's genera. The artificial nature of these genera is illustrated also by the fact that three were monotypic in their original definition, one contained 2 species and one (*Paracyathiger*) embraced the remainder of species. Here we formally synonymise the cyathigerine genera with *Plagiophorus* (appendix 1) and propose 83 new combinations (appendix 2). This action creates following new secondary homonymy: *Plagiophorus raffrayi* (Bryant, 1915), comb. n. from *Cyathiger* and *Plagiophorus raffrayi* (Leleup, 1974), comb. n. from *Paracyathiger*. For the latter we propose the replacement name *Plagiophorus cabindai* nom. n.

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APPENDIX. List of currently known *Plagiophorus* spp. with original combination (OC), additional combinations (AC), synonyms (SY) and known distribution (DI).

- Plagiophorus allaeri* (Leleup, 1974: 644), comb. n. OC *Cyathigerodes*; DI Gabon
- Plagiophorus basilewskyi* (Leleup, 1974: 645), comb. n. OC *Cyathigerodes*; DI Congo
- Plagiophorus baumeisteri* (Reitter, 1883: 388), comb. n. OC *Cyathiger*; DI Borneo
- Plagiophorus bellendeni* (Burckhardt, 1988a: 386), comb. n. OC *Cyathiger*; DI Australia
- Plagiophorus besucheti* (Burckhardt, 1985: 266), comb. n. OC *Cyathiger*; DI West Malaysia
- Plagiophorus bironis* (Raffray, 1903: 91), comb. n. OC *Cyathiger*; AC *Denicyathiger*; DI New Guinea
- Plagiophorus bonsae* (Leleup, 1974: 664), comb. n. OC *Cyathigerodes*; DI Congo
- Plagiophorus borneensis* (Raffray, 1895: 55), comb. n. OC *Cyathiger*; DI Borneo
- Plagiophorus brunooghei* (Leleup, 1974: 662), comb. n. OC *Cyathigerodes*; DI Congo
- Plagiophorus bulbifer* (Bryant, 1915: 254), comb. n. OC *Cyathiger*; DI Borneo
- Plagiophorus cabindai* **nomen n.** for *Plagiophorus raffrayi* (Leleup, 1974: 642), comb. n. junior secondary homonym of *Plagiophorus raffrayi* (Bryant, 1915). OC *Cyathigerodes*; DI (Angola)
- Plagiophorus caecus* (Leleup, 1975: 116), comb. n. OC *Cyathigerodes*; DI Congo
- Plagiophorus celisi* (Leleup, 1974: 654), comb. n. OC *Cyathigerodes*; DI Congo
- Plagiophorus cochlearius* (Jeannel, 1953: 293), comb. n. OC *Cyathigerodes*; DI Congo
- Plagiophorus coiffaiti* (Leleup, 1974: 666), comb. n. OC *Cyathigerodes*; DI Gabon
- Plagiophorus coomani* (Jeannel, 1957: 26), comb. n. OC *Paracyathiger*; DI Vietnam

- Plagiophorus cribratus* (Raffray, 1895: 58), comb. n. OC *Cyathiger*; AC *Paracyathiger*; DI Penang
- Plagiophorus debeckeri* (Leleup, 1974: 652), comb. n. OC *Cyathigerodes*; DI Congo
- Plagiophorus decamerus* (Burckhardt, 1985: 258), comb. n. OC *Cyathiger*; DI Singapore
- Plagiophorus decellei* (Leleup, 1974: 647), comb. n. OC *Cyathigerodes*; DI Congo
- Plagiophorus delamarei* (Jeannel, 1949: 112), comb. n. OC *Cyathiger*; AC *Cyathigerodes*; DI Ivory Coast
- Plagiophorus denticornis* (Leleup, 1974: 658), comb. n. OC *Cyathigerodes*; DI Congo
- Plagiophorus dispar* (Bryant, 1915: 251), comb. n. OC *Cyathiger*; DI Borneo
- Plagiophorus elongatus* (Bryant, 1915: 252), comb. n. OC *Cyathiger*; DI Borneo
- Plagiophorus endecamerus* (Burckhardt, 1985: 256), comb. n. OC *Cyathiger*; DI West Malaysia
- Plagiophorus jageli* (Leleup, 1974: 658), comb. n. OC *Cyathigerodes*; DI Congo
- Plagiophorus feminatus* (Leleup, 1974: 671), comb. n. OC *Cyathigerodes*; DI Congo
- Plagiophorus fujianai* (Kubota, 1944: 7), comb. n. OC *Cyathiger*; AC *Paracyathiger*, Jeannel, 1958: 111; DI Japan, South Korea, China
- Plagiophorus gibbicollis* (Raffray, 1903: 89), comb. n. OC *Cyathiger*; DI New Guinea
- Plagiophorus globosus* (Jeannel, 1952: 273), comb. n. OC *Cyathigerodes*; DI Congo
- Plagiophorus gracilis* (Raffray, 1904: 305), comb. n. OC *Cyathiger*; DI Sumatra
- Plagiophorus grandiceps* (Jeannel, 1959: 591), comb. n. OC *Cyathigerodes*; DI Tanzania
- Plagiophorus heterocerus* (Raffray, 1895: 53), comb. n. OC *Cyathiger*; AC *Paracyathiger* DI Singapore
- Plagiophorus impar* (Raffray, 1890b: 209), comb. n. OC *Cyathiger*; DI Penang
- Plagiophorus inexpectus* (Raffray, 1895: 56), comb. n. OC *Cyathiger*; DI Singapore
- Plagiophorus infossus* (Raffray, 1903: 90), comb. n. OC *Cyathiger*; AC *Paracyathiger*; DI New Guinea
- Plagiophorus iturianus* (Jeannel, 1953: 294), comb. n. OC *Cyathigerodes*; SY *Cyathigerodes globosus iturianus*, specific status attributed by Leleup, 1974: 669; DI Congo
- Plagiophorus jeanneli* (Leleup, 1974: 656), comb. n. OC *Cyathigerodes*; DI Ghana
- Plagiophorus joannae* (Jeannel, 1960: 168), comb. n. OC *Cyathigerodes*; DI Congo
- Plagiophorus juvenis* (Reitter, 1889: 4), comb. n. OC *Cyathiger*; DI Sumatra
- Plagiophorus kaszabi* (Leleup, 1974: 654), comb. n. OC *Cyathigerodes*; DI Congo
- Plagiophorus kingi* (Chandler, 1986: 122), comb. n. OC *Cyathiger*; DI Australia
- Plagiophorus latipennis* (Jeannel, 1954: 32), comb. n. OC *Cyathigerodes*; DI Congo
- Plagiophorus leai* (Chandler, 1986: 121), comb. n. OC *Cyathiger*; DI Australia
- Plagiophorus lejeunei* (Leleup, 1974: 645), comb. n. OC *Cyathigerodes*; DI Congo
- Plagiophorus leleupi* (Jeannel, 1952: 274), comb. n. OC *Cyathigerodes*; SY *Cyathigerodes parvicollis* Jeannel, 1952: 275, synonymised by Leleup, 1974: 648; DI Congo
- Plagiophorus machadoi* (Jeannel, 1951: 111), comb. n. OC *Cyathigerodes*; DI Angola
- Plagiophorus magnicornis* (Burckhardt, 1985: 265), comb. n. OC *Cyathiger*; DI West Malaysia
- Plagiophorus malayanus* (Bryant, 1915: 255), comb. n. OC *Cyathiger*; DI Penang
- Plagiophorus matangensis* (Bryant, 1915: 253), comb. n. OC *Cyathiger*; DI Borneo
- Plagiophorus matousheki* (Löbl, 1964: 297), comb. n. OC *Paracyathiger*; DI China, Japan
- Plagiophorus minutissimus* (Leleup, 1974: 652), comb. n. OC *Cyathigerodes*; DI Gabon
- Plagiophorus mirandus* (Bryant, 1915: 250), comb. n. OC *Cyathiger*; DI Borneo
- Plagiophorus murphyi* (Burckhardt, 1985: 259), comb. n. OC *Cyathiger*; DI Singapore
- Plagiophorus myrmecophilus* (Bryant, 1915: 250), comb. n. OC *Cyathiger*; DI Borneo
- Plagiophorus nodicornis* (Raffray, 1904: 306), comb. n. OC *Cyathiger*; DI Sumatra
- Plagiophorus octomerus* (Burckhardt, 1985: 260), comb. n. OC *Cyathiger*; DI West Malaysia
- Plagiophorus pallidus* (Raffray, 1893: 496), comb. n. OC *Cyathiger*; DI Sumatra
- Plagiophorus paludicola* (Jeannel, 1952: 274), comb. n. OC *Cyathigerodes*; DI Congo
- Plagiophorus paradoxus* Motschulsky, 1851: 496. DI “Indes orientales”
- Plagiophorus patruelis* (Raffray, 1904: 306), comb. n. OC *Cyathiger*; DI Sumatra
- Plagiophorus penangensis* (Burckhardt, 1985: 269), comb. n. OC *Cyathiger*; DI West Malaysia
- Plagiophorus pseudoheptamerus* (Burckhardt, 1985: 268), comb. n. OC *Cyathiger*; DI Singapore

- Plagiophorus punctatus* (King, 1865: 174), comb. n. OC *Cyathiger*; SY *Cyathiger reitteri* Schaufuss, 1886: 242, synonymised by Raffray, 1904: 308; DI Australia
- Plagiophorus raffrayi* (Bryant, 1915: 255), comb. n. OC *Cyathiger*; DI Penang
- Plagiophorus remyi* (Jeannel, 1961: 450), comb. n. OC *Manuleiger*; DI Sri Lanka
- Plagiophorus rufus* (Raffray, 1895: 54), comb. n. OC *Cyathiger*; DI Singapore
- Plagiophorus ruwenzoricus* (Leleup, 1975: 114), comb. n. OC *Cyathigerodes*; DI Congo
- Plagiophorus sarawakensis* (Bryant, 1915: 253), comb. n. OC *Cyathiger*; DI Borneo
- Plagiophorus scabriusculus* (Jeannel, 1960: 169), comb. n. OC *Cyathigerodes*; DI Congo
- Plagiophorus schaufussi* (Reitter, 1883: 389), comb. n. OC *Cyathiger*; DI Borneo
- Plagiophorus sericeus* (Raffray, 1895: 57), comb. n. OC *Cyathiger*; DI Penang
- Plagiophorus similis* (Raffray, 1895: 60), comb. n. OC *Cyathiger*; DI Sumatra
- Plagiophorus simonis* (Reitter, 1883: 387), comb. n. OC *Cyathiger*; DI Borneo
- Plagiophorus simulator* (Lea, 1912: 49), comb. n. OC *Cyathiger*; DI Australia
- Plagiophorus solomonensis* (Burckhardt, 1988b: 131), comb. n. OC *Cyathiger*; DI Solomon Islands
- Plagiophorus sylvestris* (Raffray, 1882: 4), comb. n. OC *Cyathiger*; DI New Guinea
- Plagiophorus transversestrigosus* (Jeannel, 1956: 91), comb. n. OC *Cyathigerodes*; DI Congo
- Plagiophorus truncatus* (Raffray, 1904: 307), comb. n. OC *Cyathiger*; DI Sumatra
- Plagiophorus variolosus* (Raffray, 1895: 53), comb. n. OC *Cyathiger*; DI Penang
- Plagiophorus vicinus* (Burckhardt, 1985: 264), comb. n. OC *Cyathiger*; DI West Malaysia
- Plagiophorus viduus* (Raffray, 1895: 57), comb. n. OC *Cyathiger*; AC *Paracyathiger*; DI Singapore
- Plagiophorus villiersi* (Leleup, 1974: 642), comb. n. OC *Cyathigerodes*; DI Angola
- Plagiophorus zicsii* (Leleup, 1974: 653), comb. n. OC *Cyathigerodes*; DI Congo